

question, we may recommend his views to the attentive consideration of our botanical readers. We understand that they have been presented in more detail to the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, and that they have been mentioned with high approbation by Professor Graham in his late retrospective address. On some points they correspond in a remarkable manner with the researches of M. Schleiden, which were not published at the time when the author first made known the general result of his inquiries*.

After what we have said of the character of this work it is almost needless to add our strong recommendation of it to our readers as one which can scarcely fail to be of service to them, in whatever department of natural history they may be engaged. Although specially designed for the medical student the author has taken much pains to adapt it to the general reader, and we trust that he may meet with his reward in the advancement of that philosophical spirit of inquiry which it is his aim to promote.

Memoirs of the Wernerian Natural History Society for the Years 1837-38. Part I. Vol. VIII. 8vo. 1839.

The Memoirs of this Society have hitherto been published in 8vo volumes at very distant intervals, thereby losing much of their interest on account of the long period which elapsed between the reading and publication of the papers, and often forcing gentlemen who had important information to communicate to lay it before some other Association which was more regular in the issue of their Transactions; we are happy therefore to see the present Part, and trust that at the end of each session at least, the more valuable communications which have been read at its meetings may be published and illustrated. We may remark that the price, 6s., is rather beyond that of the periodicals of the time, while the workmanship is not superior. The papers contained in this part are,

I. "Observations on the Distinctions, History, and Hunting of Seals in the Shetland Islands." By Lawrence Edmonstone, M.D. Dr. Edmonstone is of opinion that two species only frequent and are permanent natives of the Shetland isles, which he places under the names of *Phoca vitulina* and *barbata*; the supposed existence of any other large seal being perhaps attributable to the great difference in form between the males and females of his *P. barbata* or Half-fish. A

* See 'British and Foreign Medical Review,' vol. iv. p. 561. Translations of Dr. Schleiden's papers have appeared in the 'Lond. and Edin. Phil. Mag.', vol. xii., and 'Taylor's Scientific Memoirs', Part VI.

specimen of *Phoca Grænlandica* was killed in 1830, but is supposed to have fallen overboard from one of the returning Greenland ships. Of *P. annellata* and *leporina* he states, "I am much inclined to suspect that further observations will prove them to be merely varieties of the *vitulina*." A specimen of the Walrus was killed near the island of Fetlar in the summer of 1815, and another was seen in 1828 for a few days in Balta Sound. In this paper a great deal will be found to interest relative to the manners and habits of the Shetland seals, and Dr. Edmonstone would be conferring a favour on zoologists if he could send the skins and skeletons of the most marked varieties either to Edinburgh or London, where they could be compared with other species, and any disputed points finally settled.

II. "On the last changes in the Relative Levels of the Land and Sea in the British Islands." By James Smith, Esq., of Jordan Hill. A paper of much local interest, and illustrated by two plates of new recent shells from the firth of Clyde.

III. "On the *Asteriadæ* of the Irish Sea." By Edward Forbes, Esq.

IV. "Meteorological Journal for the year 1838, kept at the Manse of the parish of Abbey of St. Bathons, Berwickshire." By the Rev. John Wollow.

V. "On the Geognosy of the Isle of Eigg." By R. J. Hay Cunningham, Esq.

Scandnaviens Fiskar, målade of W. v. Wright, med text of B. Fries och C. U. Eckström. 4 et 5 Häftet. Stockholm.

The fourth part of this excellent work contains splendid drawings of *Gadus Æglefinus*, *Pollachius*; *Raniceps niger* (with text), *Callionymus Lyra* ♂ and ♀, *C. maculatus*, besides descriptions of *Cyprinus Grislagine*, *rutilus*, *erythrophthalmus*, *Gadus minutus* and *merlangus*. The fifth part contains drawings of *Centronotus gunellus*, *Clinus maculatus*, Fries; *Cyprinus Ballerus*, *Pleuronectes Limandoides*, *Myxine glutinosa*, *Scomber scombrus*, and *Squalus cornubicus*. From the accuracy of the drawings, and the completeness of the descriptions, this work will always remain the most important source for the determination of those species established by Linnæus and the Swedish naturalists.

Verzeichniss der Conchylien in der Sammlung von E. Anton. Halle. This Catalogue contains 3410 species, of which 348 are new, and are here described.